

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MIKLOS NAGY NEW MINISTER OF CULTURE

1. SUMMARY. HUNGARIAN PRESS AUGUST 4 ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEETING DAY BEFORE HAD APPOINTED MIKLOS NAGY AS MINISTER OF CULTURE SUCCEEDING PAL ILKU WHO DIED OF A HEART ATTACK JULY 13. PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL ALSO CREATED THREE NEW UNDER SECRETARIES OF STATE--CULTURE (\$4.LASZLO ORBAN)--JUSTICE (DR. IMRE MARKOJA) AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FRIGYES PUJA). ORBAN AND MARKOJA BOTH WERE DEPUTY MINISTERS AT MINISTRIES OF CULTURE AND JUSTICE RESPECTIVELY WHILE PUJA HELD POST OF FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. DESPITE HIS GOOD CREDENTIALS NAGY PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN JOB IF IT WERE NOT FOR ILL HEALTH OF ORBAN. RE CREATION THREE NEW UNDER SECRETARIES OF STATE WE REGARD THESE AS LARGELY HONORARY TITLES, REWARDS FOR SERVICES RENDERED, AND DOUBT THAT ANY NEW ROLES ENVISAGED FOR THREE MINISTERS INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. MIKLOS NAGY WAS BORN IN 1932 AT KABA IN EASTERN HUNGARY, SON OF A TEACHER. A PARTY MEMBER SINCE 1950 EARNED HIS DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AT MISKOLC HEAVY INDUSTRY UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IN 1954. BETWEEN 1954 AND 1963 WHILE EMPLOYED AS AN INSTRUCTOR AT MISKOLC UNIVERSITY NAGY ALSO OCCUPIED HIMSELF IN VARIOUS PARTY CAPACITIES IN THE MISKOLC AREA. IN 1963 HE BEGAN WORK IN HSWP CC AND AFTER

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TENTH CONGRESS IN 1970 HE BECAME HEAD OF HSWP CC SCIENTIFIC,

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL DEPARTMENT WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT.

3. NAGY ALSO SERVES AS SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNDER DIRECTION OF KOMOSCIN AND AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS HEADED BY DR. ENDRE ROSTA. IN ADDITION, HE IS MEMBER OF HSWP AGIT-PROP COMMITTEE AND ITS CULTURAL POLICY WORKING COLLECTIVE. AT 41, NAGY IS ONE OF YOUNGEST HSWP DEPARTMENT HEADS. HIS DEGREE IN ENGINEERING AND HIS PARTY WORK THESE PAST 10 YEARS IN CULTURAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION FIELDS PROVIDE HIM WITH GOOD CREDENTIALS FOR HIS PRESENT JOB.

4. NEVERTHELESS, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT NAGY WOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN JOB IF IT WERE NOT FOR ILL HEALTH OF ORBAN. NOW 61 ORBAN HAS SPENT A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OR MORE IN CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS AND HELD AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER MOST OF ASSIGNMENTS NAGY HAS HAD. HE HAS BEEN IN DECLINING HEALTH RECENTLY AND HUNGARIAN PARTY LEADERS PROBABLY BELIEVE THAT WITH A YOUNG AND VIGOROUS MAN TO CARRY OUT POLICY UNDER GUIDANCE OF A VETERAN LIKE ORBAN, HUNGARY HAS BEST ARRANGEMENT POSSIBLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. HSWP LEADERSHIP UNDOUBTEDLY GAVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO NOMINATION ILKU'S SUCCESSOR FOR IN PRESENT DETENTE PERIOD MINISTER OF CULTURE PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN PRESERVING IDEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY AND MONITORING HUNGARY'S EXPOSURE TO WESTERN EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE.

5. PUJA'S NEW TITLE PROBABLY IS A REWARD FOR HIS HARD-LINING ATTITUDE SO MUCH IN EVIDENCE THESE LAST FEW MONTHS OF DETENTE. MARKOJA'S NOMINATION AS UNDER SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE WE FIND BOTH CURIOUS AND INTERESTING. OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT BEFORE FRIDAY HE WAS BOTH FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR. NATURALLY, PRESS MAKES NO MENTION OF MARKOJA'S POLICE AFFILIATION.
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